

House Study Bill 686

HOUSE FILE _____
BY (PROPOSED COMMITTEE ON
ECONOMIC GROWTH BILL BY
CHAIRPERSON THOMAS)

Passed House, Date _____ Passed Senate, Date _____
Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____ Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____
Approved _____

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to economic development by providing for the
2 confidentiality of certain details contained in contracts and
3 applications for grant funds.
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:
5 TLSB 6501HC 82
6 tw/nh/5

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1 1 Section 1. Section 15.104, subsection 6, Code Supplement
1 2 2007, is amended by adding the following new paragraphs:
1 3 NEW PARAGRAPH. a. In establishing guidelines, procedures,
1 4 and policies for the awarding of grants, the board shall give
1 5 due regard to the confidentiality of certain information
1 6 disclosed during the grant application process.
1 7 NEW PARAGRAPH. b. The board shall consider the written
1 8 request of an applicant or award recipient to keep
1 9 confidential certain details of an application, a contract, or
1 10 the materials submitted in support of an application or a
1 11 contract. If the request includes a sufficient explanation as
1 12 to why the public disclosure of such details would give an
1 13 unfair advantage to competitors, the board may keep certain
1 14 details confidential. If the board elects to keep certain
1 15 details confidential, the board shall release only the
1 16 nonconfidential details in response to a request for records
1 17 pursuant to chapter 22. If confidential details are withheld
1 18 from a request for records pursuant to chapter 22, the board
1 19 shall release an explanation of why the information was deemed
1 20 confidential and a summary of the nature of the information
1 21 withheld.
1 22 NEW PARAGRAPH. c. If a request for confidentiality is
1 23 denied by the board, an applicant may withdraw an application
1 24 and any supporting materials, and the board shall not retain
1 25 any copies of the application. Upon notice that an
1 26 application has been withdrawn, the board shall not release a
1 27 copy in response to a request for records pursuant to chapter
1 28 22.

EXPLANATION

1 30 This bill relates to the confidentiality of information
1 31 coming before the economic development board. This includes
1 32 applications for grant funds and contracts with the board and
1 33 any materials submitted in support of such applications or
1 34 contracts.
1 35 The bill allows an applicant or a contract party to request
2 1 that certain details of an application or contract be deemed
2 2 confidential. If the board finds that the information would
2 3 provide a competitive advantage to competitors of the
2 4 applicant, the board may elect to keep the information
2 5 confidential.
2 6 If the board receives a request for records pursuant to
2 7 Code chapter 22, it must release only the nonconfidential
2 8 portions of the application or contract. When the board
2 9 withholds confidential information, it must also release an
2 10 explanation as to why the information was kept confidential
2 11 and a summary of the nature of the information.
2 12 An applicant whose request for confidentiality is denied
2 13 may withdraw the application, and in such cases, the board
2 14 must not retain a copy of the application or release a copy
2 15 upon a request for records pursuant to Code chapter 22.
2 16 LSB 6501HC 82
2 17 tw/nh/5

